Times of September 14, 1998, detailing shipments of sophisticated weapons material delivered by North Korea to Pakistan including missile components for Pakistan's missile programme. These supplies were reportedly made in mid-June, 1998 to Pakistan's A.Q. Khan Research Laboratories. It is widely believed that the Ghauri missile is a Pakistani version of the North Korean "Nodong" missile.

(c) India's position on the issue of external assistance to Pakistan's missile programme is well known. Government has also made it clear that continuing supply of sophisticated missile technologies to Pakistan through clandestine means poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the region. India is engaged in a composite dialogue with Pakistan, including discussions on peace and security and confidence building measures. During the Foreign Secretary level talks in Islamabad, 15-18 October, 1998, India and Pakistan underscored their commitment to reduce the risk of a conflict by building mutual confidence in the nuclear and conventional fields.

Restrictions imposed on India following Nuclear Tests

1324. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of restrictions (economic) imposed on India following nuclear blasts in May, 1998;

(b) whether Government have in recent past undertaken any study to take stock of the implications of such restrictions on the Indian economy; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of partial lifting of restrictions on Pakistan by USA; if not, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) the present stance of Government of India on signing CTBT; and

(e) whether Chief Minister of West Bengal has strongly protested Government's recent stance to sign CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Details of economic restructions against India are as follows:

(i) The United States imposed economic restrictions as mandated under the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994 which includes the Glenn Amendment to the Arms Export Control Act. These restrictions include termination or suspension of all development assistance except for humanitarian purposes; denial of credit and credit guarantees by US Government entities; prohibition of bank loans to Government of India entities except for food or other agricultural commodity purposes; and, prohibition of US exports of dual use goods and technology, which were earlier subject to export licensing. Pursuant to the waiver authority granted by the US Congress, the US President decided to partially waive some of the economic restrictions and EXIM guarantees and OPIC programmes have been restored for a period of one year.

(ii) Japan has frozen grant aid for new projects except for emergency and humanitarian aid; suspended grant assistance for grassroots projects; suspended Yen loans for new projects to India valued at US $ 1 billion; has decided to examine all loans extended to India by multi-lateral financial institutions; and, imposed stringent controls on dual use technology transfers to India.

(iii) Other countries:— Canada has terminated all non-humanitarian

development assistance to India and banned military exports; The Netherlands has suspended macro economic aid but has stated that ongoing projects will remain unaffected; Sweden has terminated Development Assistance Programmes of US $ 118 million for the year 1997 to 1999 but has stated that ongoing activities in health and education would not be affected; Norway has terminated all aid excluding aid and assistance for poverty alleviation programmes; and, Denmark has frozen its Overseas Development Assistance Programmes to current levels. Germany, France, the UK and Italy have not imposed any economic restrictions against India.

(b) Government is constantly assessing and continuously monitoring the impact of the restrictive economic measures on the Indian economy as announced by various countries. Government is prepared to take all steps necessary to safeguard our economic and national interests.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the partial lifting by the US of some economic measures against Pakistan including its decision to work towards permitting IMF support to Pakistan. Government has supported economic assistance to Pakistan and has consistently voted in favour of such assistance in the World Bank and other multilateral fora. Government does not agree with a selective and discriminatory approach in these matters.

(d) Government having harmonised India's national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. Government is prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. Government expects that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to the Treaty without conditions.

(e) Government have seen reports of the statement made by the Chief Minister of West Bengal concerning his views on the CTBT.

Nature of diplomatic status to Dalai Lama

1325. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the precise nature of diplomatic status enjoyed in our country by Dalai Lama;

(b) whether any country, with which India has diplomatic relations has objected to any special status accorded to Dalai Lama; and

(c) whether any foreign Government has requested his extradition from India on named or unnamed charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Dalai Lama is in India as a revered religious and spiritual personage.

(b) and (c) No such issues have been raised with Government.

Over staffing of Indian High Commission in London

1326. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commission in London is heavily over staffed;

(b) if so, the existing number of staff (with categories) and the annual expenditure incurred by Government on their salaries and perks etc;

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of reviewing the positions to scale down the staff according to the requirements in order to curtail the infructuous expenditure; and